

Appln. No.:  
Amdt. dated:  
Preliminary Amendment

**REMARKS**

The present application has been amended to add the cross-reference to related application. Claims 1-25 have been cancelled. New claims 26-54 are presented. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 21-0550. TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 29, 2005



Mark Farber  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 34,159

United States Surgical, a division of  
TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP  
150 Glover Avenue  
Norwalk, CT 06856  
(203) 845-1059